



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Masashi MIMA et al.

Serial No.: 10/067,547

Group Art Unit: 1774

Filed: February 7, 2002

Examiner: Merrick L. Dixon

For: STRETCHABLE CONVEYOR BELT AND
METHOD OF PRODUCING SAME

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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Sir:

[x] Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

OR

[] No item of information in the Information Disclosure Statement filed, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more

than three months prior to the filing of this Information
Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

December 8, 2003
Date


Roger W. Parkhurst
Registration No. 25,177

Attorney Docket No.: YOSH:002

Attachment:
Information Disclosure Statement

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of each of the references listed on Form PTO-1449 are attached.

The references cited herein were cited in a Japanese Office Action on September 24, 2003 issued in a corresponding Japanese patent application.

A concise explanation of the relevance of the cited references, as authored by applicants' Japanese representatives, is attached hereto.


The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 C.F.R. 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that these references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

December 8, 2003
Date

RWP/ame



Roger W. Parkhurst
Registration No. 25,177

Attorney Docket No.: YOSH:002

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FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)ATTY DOCKET NO.
YOSH:002SERIAL NO.
10/067,547APPLICANT
Masashi MIMA et al.FILING DATE
February 7, 2002GROUP
1774

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION NO YES	
	49-42687		Japan			x	
	55-44195	3/1980	Japan			x	
	47-10288		Japan			x	
	10-139120	5/1998	Japan			x	
	53-18182	2/1978	Japan			x	
	2000-169066	6/2000	Japan			x	
	55-109609		Japan			x	

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TC 1700

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

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CONCISE EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE OF NON-ENGLISH DOCUMENTS

1) JP Utility Model 49-42678 (Application No. 47-084815)

This document relates to a belt for a belt conveyor. The belt includes a bellows portion that is stretchable in a lengthwise direction thereof.

2) JP-A 55-44195

This document relates to an endless flexible belt having a plurality of cuts formed at intervals in a lengthwise direction thereof.

3) JP Utility Model 47-10288 (Application No. 46-13434)

This document relates to a conveyor flexible belt having an intermediate layer formed of a steel.

4) JP-A 10-139120

This document relates to a conveyor belt that can be run while being curved in a three-dimensional space. The belt includes a core layer 2 formed of fibers.

5) JP-A 53-18182

This document relates to a conveyor belt whose widthwise opposite end portions are stretchable in a lengthwise direction thereof.

6) JP-A P2000-169066

This document relates to a person conveyor belt that can be run at variable speeds. The belt has transverse rigid members.

7) JP Utility Model 55-109609 (Application No. 54-69996)

This document relates to an endless belt and an endless chain fixed to a back surface of the belt.